GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
OBESITY AMONG CHILDREN CAUSED BY SOFT DRINKS
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama;Rawale Shri Mohan;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the carbonated drinks contain health hazard elements which cause obesity among children as reported in The Times of India dated August 7, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban advertisement of carbonated drinks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the action/ steps taken by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Carbonated drinks provide only calories and are deficient in vital nutrients as a result they increase the body weight leading to obesity and other diet related chronic non-communicable disorders.

(c)&(d) There is no proposal to ban advertisement of carbonated drinks. However, keeping in view the increased consumption of junk foods including carbonated drinks among school children and adolescent population, the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States & UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk foods and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens.Letters have also been issued to Chief Ministers of all States & UTs to consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of the respective States for withdrawal of junk foods and carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutes.